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Congressman Carnahan is a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and sits on the Aviation Subcommittee.

(WASHINGTON, DC) -- Today, the House passed H.R. 2881, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2007, which provides historic funding levels for the FAA's capital programs between FY 2008 and FY2011. The legislation included language requested by Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3) in regard to labor integration.

Nearly seven years ago, American Airlines purchased TWA, an airline with a long history of service in Carnahan's home state of Missouri. Without any labor protections to look after their interests, TWA employees were unfairly stapled to the bottom of the combined work group's seniority lists. Seniority lists are used to determine work shifts, vacation schedules and furloughs. After the aviation industry downsized as a result of the September 11th attacks, all former TWA flight attendants lost their jobs as a result of their position on the seniority list, though more junior American flight attendants retained their jobs.

"TWA employees were subjected to unfair practices as a result of the American buyout," Carnahan said. "The consequences of the buyout were felt especially strong in Missouri, where thousands of my constituents worked for TWA. To ensure that such an event does not happen again, I am proud to provide labor integration protection for all airline workers."

Carnahan asked Chairman Jerry Costello, who chairs the Aviation Subcommittee, to incorporate labor integration language in the Manager's Amendment of the FAA Reauthorization Act. Chairman Costello granted the request, inserting language that provides that, in cases of future airline mergers, integrations of labor seniority lists will be completed in a "fair and equitable" manner.

This language is supported by the Association of Flight Attendants (AFL-CIO), International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Air Line Pilots Association, Transport

Workers Union of America, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association, and the Transportation Trades Department of AFL-CIO.